

GERMANY

Local development

Location

Münsingen

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure

M19 – LEADER/CLLD

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 268 700

EAFRD 94 386

National/Regional 174 314

Project duration

2017 – 2018

Project promoter

Zwiefalten Community

Contact

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Website

<https://leader-alb.de/dobel-spatz-spiel-abenteuer-treffpunkt-zwiefalten/>

A community project in which young people actively participated in shaping their environment and strengthened the cohesion of their community.

Summary

Like many other communities in rural areas, the community of Zwiefalten on the Swabian Alb, in Baden-Wuerttemberg, suffers from the fact that more and more young people leave the village and never return. Therefore, the community is inviting its young people to actively participate in shaping their environment.



In a youth forum which started in 2015, the local youth developed the idea of the "Dobel-SpATZ". This consists of a room for young people and a spacious children's playground. There is also a fitness area with barrier-free access and facilities for wheelchair users.

Results

The project, a joint venture by the community, the youth forum, committed citizens, companies and institutions, has strengthened the community's cohesion. It has enhanced the quality of life in Zwiefalten and has made the community more attractive for visitors.

About 150 people from the village (2 000 inhabitants) helped with construction, or planted trees on the site, etc. The work was very well organised and it can be considered as an outstanding example of social cohesion.

Context

Zwiefalten, like many other rural communities, suffers from the fact that a growing number of young people leave and do not return. Therefore, the community of around 2 000 inhabitants wanted to break new ground in youth work and involved young people in shaping their environment.

Objectives

The community sought to involve young people in the design of "their" own community and to give them responsibility for the implementation of the project. This would make them identify with their community and want to remain in the village in the long term.

Activities

In a youth forum founded in 2015, the young people of Zwiefalten developed the idea of the "Dobel-SpaTZ". This involved creating an extraordinary meeting place and recreation area for locals and guests, for young and old, for people with and without physical and mental limitations. It was meant to differ from the usual concepts and to offer opportunities for recreation, sport and communication.

In November 2016, the project was presented to the broader public with the aim of involving as many interest groups as possible. Citizens, local entrepreneurs, senior citizens, representatives of associations and the local centre for psychiatry, schools and kindergartens, as well as the person safeguarding the interests of people with disabilities in the district of Reutlingen, all contributed ideas.

In February 2017, the project received confirmation of LEADER funding. The implementation of the "Dobel-SpaTZ" project began in autumn of that year. Its name connects its location at Dobeltal street, with its goals to create a space that offers opportunities for games (Spiel, Sp) and adventure (Abenteuer,A) and also serves as a meeting point (Treffpunkt, T).

The "Dobel-SpaTZ" consists of a room for young people and a spacious playground for kids. There is also a fitness area with barrier-free access and facilities for people in wheelchairs. At the centre of the site, an open area offers space for events and other activities. In addition, a hut with a barbecue area was built.



Main results

The "Dobel-SpaTZ" in Zwiefalten is now a site for local recreation and exercise. The comprehensive civic commitment is also worthy of mention: many people participated in the planning and jointly came up with creative project ideas. In addition to young people, several volunteers, local associations and companies were involved in the site's construction. That reduced costs by about one third and strengthened the sense of community.

The idea of bringing together as many generations as possible at one meeting point in the town, has been the guiding principle throughout and was particularly successful. Often only individual groups of residents benefit from an investment. Now, thanks to the low-barrier facility, almost every citizen can use the "Dobel-SpaTZ" leisure facility.

About 150 people from the village helped with construction, tree-planning, etc. The work was very well organised and it can be considered an outstanding example of social cohesion. Zwiefalten is rightly very proud of its team spirit and social bonds.

Key lessons

n/a

Additional sources of information

www.zwiefalten.de/Lde/Startseite/Gemeinde/dobel-spatz.html

www.leader-alb.de